

**THE EFFECT OF SOCIAL ECONOMIC STATUS
TOWARDS ACADEMIC ACHIEVEMENT OF FORM
FOUR STUDENTS IN PERLIS**

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**MASTER OF ECONOMICS
UNIVERSITI UTARA MALAYSIA
FEBRUARY 2014**

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FOUR STUDENTS IN PERLIS**

**BY
NOORFAUZIAH BINTI MUSTAFFA**

**Dissertation Submitted to
Othman Yeop Abdullah, Graduate School of Business Universiti Utara Malaysia
in Fulfilment of the Requirement for the Master Degree of Economics**

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ABSTRACT

Educational sector is an important agenda for any country. A country may develop according to how the educational sector planned. Therefore the purpose of this study is to determine the effects of Social Economic Status (SES) towards Academic Achievement (AA). This study was conducted on 267 respondents who are students from three secondary schools which are from three different zones in Perlis. The scopes of Socio Economic background of family include in the study are the family income, parents' education level and parents' occupation. Meanwhile the academic achievement refers to the students' achievement in their PMR. The adaption of instruments in this research is based on the constructs in the structured model illustrated in and to run the analysis simultaneously, the study data been analysed using the structured equation model. The magnitude of estimation of direct effect among construct also been conducted. The result of this study shows there is a significant direct effect of parent's income to the student's academic achievements. However the study shows that the parent's educational level and parent's occupation status do not have significant direct impact to the student's academic achievement. These findings suggest that a better planning or programme for students from low income family group is needed in order to uplift the student's achievement. A better planning or programme hopefully, will close the gap of academic achievement between the student's from low and higher income group.

Keywords: Parental Income, Parental Educational level, Parental Occupation, Academic Achievement.

ABSTRAK

Pendidikan merupakan antara agenda penting dalam sesebuah negara. Sesebuah Negara dapat dicorakkan melalui bagaimanakan sektor pendidikan dibangunkan. Oleh yang demikian kajian ini bertujuan untuk mengenal pasti hubungan antara Social Economic Status terhadap pencapaian akademik Penilaian Menengah Rendah (PMR). Kajian telah dilakukan kepada 267 orang responden yang merupakan pelajar daripada 3 buah sekolah yang berad di 3 zon berbeza di negeri Perlis. Latar belakang keluarga yang dikaji termasuklah tahap pendapatan ibu bapa, tahap pendidikan ibu bapa dan tahap pekerjaan ibu bapa. Manakala pencapaian akademik merujuk kepada pencapaian pelajar dalam PMR. Instrumen-instrumen diadaptasikailah berdasarkan konstruk-konstruk di dalam model berstruktur yang telah dibangunkan. Data kajian dianalisis menggunakan Model Persamaan Berstruktur bagi membolehkan analisis serentak bagi semua kontrak. Anggaran magnitud kesan secara langsung dan tidak langsung antara konstruk juga dijalankan. Dapatan kajian mendapati kesan secara langsung yang signifikan wujud antara tahap pendapatan ibu bapa dengan kecemerlangan akademik. Tetapi tahap pendidikan ibu bapa dan tahap pekerjaan ibu bapa tidak signifikan terhadap pencapaian akademik. Hasil dapatan ini mencadangkan agar lebih banyak perancangan dibuat agar tahap pencapaian akademik dikalangan pelajar yang berpendapatan rendah dapat ditingkatkan. Hal ini agar dapat merapatkan jurang diantara pencapaian akademik pelajar dari golongan berpendapatan rendah dan berpendapatan tinggi.

Kata kunci: Pendapatan ibu bapa, Pekerjaan ibu bapa, Pendidikan ibu bapa, Pencapaian Akademik.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

I would like to express my deepest gratitude to my supervisor, Associate Professor Dr. Hussin Bin Abdullah for his guidance, encouragement, and ideas throughout the period in completing this dissertation.

Also, I would like to express my greatest gratitude to the lecturers in Universiti Utara Malaysia who have helped me throughout my study, directly or indirectly.

Finally, I owe my love and thanks to my beloved husband, Mohd Ramli Bin Awang, for the patience and support. Not forgetting, to all my family members especially to my mother, Pora Binti Hamid, my father Mustaffa Bin Bakar for their undivided support and constant pray. To all my children, Muhammad Umar Farhaan and Aiyshah Khadeejah, thanks for the understanding and the sacrifices made. Your love and thought have guided me to be what I am today. Last but not least, I would like to thanks all my friends who gave me their great support and cooperation to complete this dissertation.

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LIST OF ABBREVIATIONS

SES	Social Economic Status
AA	Academic Achievement
INC_M	Income Mothers
INC_F	Income Fathers
EDU_M	Education Mothers
EDU_F	Education Fathers
OCC_M	Occupation Mothers
OCC_F	Occupation Fathers
INC	Income
EDU	Education
OCC	Occupation
FTR	Father
MTR	Mother
CGPA	Cumulative Grade Point Average

CHAPTER 1

OVERVIEW OF THE STUDY

1.1 Introduction

In Malaysia, the students are required to sit for different level of examinations such as Primary School Achievement Test (UPSR, Malay: *Ujian Penilaian Menengah Rendah*), Lower Secondary Assessment (PMR, Malay: *Penilaian Menengah Rendah*), and Malaysian Certificate of Education (SPM, Malay: *Sijil Pelajaran Malaysia*). UPSR is the indicator to test the students' achievement in primary schools meanwhile SPM is the indicator for the students to choose between either working environment or furthering their studies. On the other hand, PMR is the indicator to use to decide the stream of course that the students will take in upper secondary. It is a national examination in Malaysia with centralized administration, complete with course work, for lower secondary school. This examination is taken by form three students based on the Malaysian National syllabus for Secondary school (KBSM: *Kurikulum Bersepadu Sekolah Menengah*). The result is important in deciding the courses that the students will be able to choose in their upper secondary school, whether for science major, accounting, literatures or vocational. In PMR, the students are evaluated on the written exam and also through course works.

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APPENDIX A

Questionnaire

Dear Sir/Miss/Madam

My name is Noorfauziah Binti Mustafa and currently doing my Master at Universiti Utara Malaysia. The topic of my dissertation is The effect Social Economic Status towards Academic Achievement. Hence, I have develop instruments to measure the effect of Social Economic Status towards Academic Achievement for form four student in Perlis. Your cooperation in answering the questionnaire is highly appreciated.

Thank you.

Your sincerely,

NOORFAUZIAH BINTI MUSTAFFA
Dear Sir/Miss/Madam

Section A: Respondent's Background

Gender	Male	<input type="text"/>	Female	<input type="text"/>				
Citizenship	Malaysian	<input type="text"/>	Non-Malaysian	<input type="text"/>				
Race	Malay	<input type="text"/>	Chinese	<input type="text"/>	Indian	<input type="text"/>	Others	<input type="text"/>
No. of siblings (<i>Bilangan adik-beradik</i>):	<input type="text"/>							
No. in your siblings (<i>Anak yang beberapa?</i>):	<input type="text"/>							

Indicate the number of A, B, C, D, E and G in the box provided.

Nyatakan bilangan A,B,C,D,E dan G didalam kotak yang disediakan.

UPSR Result	A	<input type="text"/>	B	<input type="text"/>	C	<input type="text"/>	D	<input type="text"/>	E	<input type="text"/>	G	<input type="text"/>
<i>Keputusan UPSR</i>												

Indicate the number of A, B, C, D, E and G in the box provided.

Nyatakan bilangan A,B,C,D,E dan G didalam kotak yang disediakan.

PMR Result	A	<input type="text"/>	B	<input type="text"/>	C	<input type="text"/>	D	<input type="text"/>	E	<input type="text"/>	G	<input type="text"/>
<i>Keputusan PMR</i>												

Tick (/) in the space provided.

Tandakan (/) pada ruang yang disediakan.

Income Parents:

Pendapatan Ibu bapa:

	Mother	Father
1 RM999 and below	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>
2 RM1000 - RM1999	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>
3 RM2000 - RM2999	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>
4 RM3000 - RM3999	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>
5 RM4000 - RM4999	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>
6 RM5000 - RM5999	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>
7 RM6000 and above	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>

Educations Parents:

Nyatakan tahap tertinggi pendidikan ibu bapa anda:

	Mother	Father
1 No formal education	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>
2 Primary school (UPSR)	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>
3 Secondary school (PMR)	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>
4 Secondary school (SPM)	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>
5 College / Diploma	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>
6 Degree	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>
7 Masters / PhD	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>

Occupations parents

Nyatakan pekerjaan ibu bapa anda

	Mother	Father
1 Others	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>
2 Unemployed/ Housewife	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>
3 Retiree	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>
4 Self employed (petani, peniaga, kontraktor)	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>
5 Support staff	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>
6 Service officers	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>
7 Admin executive (A group)	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>

Section B

Please tick (/) in the appropriate box that reflect your opinion to the following statements.

Kindly responds to all questions.

Sila tandakan (/) pada kotak yang disediakan bagi menunjukkan pendapat anda pada kenyataan yang diberikan. Mohon jawab semua soalan.

(Note: The italic sentences are translations made in Malay)

1 = Strongly Disagree

5 = Strongly Agree

Bahagian A

	1	2	3	4	5
1 Ibu / bapa saya mampu menyediakan ruang yang selesa untuk belajar dan mengulangkaji <i>My parents can afford to allocate an adequate/comfortable study</i>					
2 Ibu / bapa saya mampu membekalkan buku rujukan tambahan selain buku teks <i>My parents can afford to buy additions/ reference academic books beside text book</i>					
3 Ibu / bapa saya mampu menghantar mengikuti kelas tambahan berbayar di luar sekolah <i>My parents can afford to send me to private tuition after school time</i>					
4 Ibu / bapa saya mampu memberi ganjaran atau hadiah sekiranya saya cemerlang di dalam peperiksaan <i>My parents may give me some present for my excellent academic achievement</i>					
5 Ibu/ bapa saya mampu menyediakan makanan yang seimbang dan berzat untuk perkembangan minda saya <i>My parents can afford to provide a very well-balanced food</i>					
6 Ibu/bapa saya menyediakan sebuah komputer untuk kemudahan pembelajaran saya <i>My parents provide a private computer (PC) for my study academic purpose</i>					
7 Ibu/bapa saya menyediakan kemudahan internet untuk saya mencari bahan pembelajaran. <i>My parents provide a PC with internet access for my study</i>					

Bahagian B

	1	2	3	4	5
1 Ibu/bapa saya memastikan saya mempunyai tempat/bilik yang selesa untuk saya mengulangkaji pelajaran. <i>My parents will make sure I have a comfortable room for study</i>					
2 Ibu/bapa selalu membantu saya untuk memahami kerja sekolah <i>My parents always assist me to understand the homework</i>					
3 Ibu/bapa saya sentiasa memberikan sokongan dan motivasi dalam pencapaian akademik saya. <i>My parents always encourage and motivate me to excel in academic achievement</i>					
4 Ibu/bapa saya menyediakan jadual pembelajaran saya di rumah <i>My parents prepare me a systematic timetable for study purpose at home</i>					
5 Ibu/bapa saya sering memantau aktiviti saya semasa di rumah <i>My parents always guide my activities at home</i>					

6 Ibu/bapa saya memberikan had masa untuk belajar/menonton televisyen dan kegiatan peribadi <i>My parents allocate a limited suitable time for me to study, watching television or other free activities</i>					
7 Ibu/bapa saya akan memastikan saya bersarapan sebelum ke sekolah <i>My parents will make sure I have take my breakfast before go to school</i>					
8 Ibu/bapa saya sering berbincang dengan saya ketika saya mengulangkaji pelajaran. <i>My parents always actively discuss and involve during my study time</i>					
9 Ibu/bapa saya sering menyemak buku pelajaran saya. <i>My parents always checks my academic book</i>					
10 Ibu/bapa saya sering bertanya kemajuan saya di sekolah. <i>My parents always ask me about my academic achievement at school</i>					

Bahagian C		1	2	3	4	5
1	Ibu/bapa saya meluangkan masa berbincang tentang apa yang saya pelajari di kelas. <i>My parents spends some time to discuss on subject I have learn at school</i>					
2	Ibu/bapa saya menceritakan maklumat dari bahan bacaan yang telah dibaca oleh mereka kepada saya <i>My parents always inform me extra knowledge from their reading material</i>					
3	Ibu/bapa saya berbincang tentang program televisyen yang kami tonton bersama <i>My parents do discuss on the television programme which we watch together</i>					
4	Ibu/bapa saya memastikan saya menyiapkan kerja sekolah <i>My parents will make sure I have finished my homework</i>					
5	Ibu/bapa saya memastikan rumah sentiasa senyap agar saya boleh belajar dan mengulangkaji pelajaran <i>My parents will make sure our home quite and calm for me to study</i>					
6	Ibu/bapa saya akan membawa saya bercuti pada musim cuti sekolah <i>My parents will bring me to a vacation during school holiday</i>					

APPENDIX B

Dimension	Elements	Items
Academic Achievement (AA)	CGPA	Result UPSR
		Result PMR
Social Academic Status	Income	A1: My parents can afford to allocate an adequate/comfortable study.
		A2 : My parents can afford to buy additional reference academic.
		A3 : My parents can afford to send me to private tuition after school time.
		A4 : My parents may give me some present for my excellent academic achievement.
		A5 : My parents can afford to provide a very well-balanced food.
		A6 : My parents provide a private computer (PC) for my study academic purpose.
		A7 : My parents provide a P.C with internet access for my study.
	Education	B1 : My parents will make sure I have a comfortable room for study.
		B2 : My parents always assist me to understand the homework.
		B3 : My parents always encourage and motivate me to excel in academic achievement.
		B4 : My parents prepare me a systematic time table for study purpose at home.
		B5 : My parents always guide my activities at home.
		B6 : My parents allocate a limited suitable time for me to study, watching television or other free activities.
		B7 : My parents will make sure I have taken my breakfast before go to school.

		B8 : My parents always actively discuss and involve during my study time.
		B9 : My parents always checks my academic book.
		B 10: My parents always ask me about my academic achievement at school.
	Occupation	C1: My parents spend some time to discuss on subject I have learn at school.
		C2 : My parents always inform me extra knowledge from their reading material.
		C3 : My parents do discuss on the television programme which we watch together.
		C4 : My parents will make sure I have finished my homework.
		C5 : My parents will make sure our home quietly and calm for me to study.
		C6 : My parents will bring me to a vacation during school holiday.